

ULTIMATUM SENT BERLIN, WILSON TELLS CONGRESS

ALARM GROWS FOR PERSHING'S MEN IN MEXICO

Dispatches From Funston Testify to Growing Hostility on Part of Carranzistas.

SCOTT ORDERED TO BORDER

Growing alarm is felt in official circles for the safety of the American forces in Mexico.

Dispatches received at the War Department from General Funston, many of which enclose advices direct from Pershing's headquarters, testify to a steadily increasing hostility on the part of the Carranza forces in southern Chihuahua.

General Pershing has notified his superiors that plain warning has been served on him by the Carranza authorities that any attempt on the part of the expedition to proceed further southward will meet with resistance.

ULTIMATUM COMING.

Reports from the border contain circumstantial statements from Carranza authorities that an ultimatum demanding an immediate withdrawal of the American troops from Mexico is in course of preparation.

General Funston has further advised the War Department that because of the disturbing reports he has received, (Continued on Eighth Page.)

Aqueduct Bridge Bill Up in Senate

Senator Smoot Starts Controversy by Trying to Divide Costs of Construction.

On motion of Senator Swanson of Virginia, the Aqueduct bridge bill was taken up in the Senate this afternoon. It has been passed by the House and provides for a new Aqueduct bridge to cost \$1,000,000.

Senator Smoot stirred up a controversy by remarking that the Government in the near future would construct a great Lincoln memorial bridge and pay all the costs.

He said the State of Virginia ought to bear part of the expense of the Aqueduct bridge. He offered an amendment that the State of Virginia pay one-third, the District one-third, and the United States Government one-third.

Senator Swanson strongly objected. He said Alexandria county and not the State of Virginia would have to bear the cost and it was unable to do it. He pointed out that the Government owned one-third of the land in Alexandria county and paid no taxes on it and that the county was embarrassed in road building because of it.

Considerable discussion of the Smoot amendment followed.

Passenger Train Goes Into River

LA CROSSE, Wis., April 19.—Burlington passenger train, No. 54, left the rails and plunged into the Mississippi river south of De Soto, Wis., early today. Telephone reports from the scene of the wreck said no one was injured except the engineer.

The locomotive and baggage car were reported to be submerged. A wrecking train left La Crosse for De Soto at 7 a. m.

High waters in the vicinity of De Soto have delayed all Burlington traffic for several hours.

HOUDINI GETS OUT OF JACKET 100 FEET IN AIR

More 15,000 Persons Cheer as "Handcuff King" Frees Himself Hanging Head Down.

FREES SELF IN 2 1/2 MINUTES

More than 15,000 persons saw Harry Houdini hanged today in front of The Times building.

In just 2 minutes and 30 seconds from the time he was swung into mid-air, trussed up in a strait-jacket from which there is said to be no escape, Houdini wiggled himself free, waved his arm and was lowered to the ground.

As Houdini freed himself from the jacket, the crowd sent up a cheer which could be heard for blocks.

As a moment later, Houdini waved his arm to the yelling, applauding throng, and while the cameras and motion picture machines clicked, the men who held the ropes let him down.

CROWDS JAM STREETS.

Persons who saw the great throng from windows of nearby buildings said it was the biggest crowd ever assembled in Washington at one place except for the inauguration of a President.

Pennsylvania avenue and E street, from Thirteenth to Fourteenth streets, were literally jammed. Human beings were packed as tight and close as sardines in a can.

Had to Get Police Aid.

There came near being no Houdini hanging. There were too many spectators. The "handcuff king" and Manager Robbins, of Keith's Theater found it necessary to call for police aid to get through the mob that assembled in front of the Murray building. Robbins and Captain Peck conducted the star performer of the day to the platform that had been built for him by main strength.

That's worse than getting out of a straitjacket, said Houdini, when he reached the platform, puffing and settling his clothes back in place, and (Continued on Second Page.)

Boy Slashes Heart, Wound Sewed Up

Daring Operation Saves Life of Youth Who Wanted to Go to Mexico.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—A stab wound in the heart was closed by surgeons at St. Joseph's Hospital last night in a remarkable operation which may save the life of George Leo Pride, eighteen, who stabbed himself with a pocket knife, because recruiting officers wouldn't enlist him for Mexican service.

In the excitement no one thought of pulling the knife out of the boy's heart. That saved him from immediate death. When he reached St. Joseph's Hospital, Dr. J. P. X. Jones, a staff surgeon, found that the young man's heart was beating and that he had lost no blood. Pride was sent to the operating room, and Doctor Jones made an incision near the stab wound, and when he was ready to sew the heart together, drew out the pocket knife. Before any blood was lost, he had rejoined the walls of the right ventricle where the wound was. It was said at the hospital late last night that Pride had excellent chances for recovery.

He came here a week ago from Allegheny county, intending to enlist in the cavalry. He was refused because of a weak heart. He was down to his last dollar when he tried to end his life.

Norway Steamer Sunk; All of Crew Rescued

LISBON, April 19.—The Norwegian steamer Terje Viken has been sunk. The crew was rescued.

TO DELIVER ULTIMATUM



JAMES W. GERARD,
American Ambassador to Germany.

LEGISLATORS PROBE PLANS FOR MERGER

Hearing Opens on Bill to Consolidate Railway and Power Companies.

Congressmen Bourke, Manes, Crosser, and Tinkham manifested a keen interest in the opening hearing on the Fairchild bill to consolidate the Potomac Electric Power Company and the Washington Railway and Electric Company before the House District Committee today.

W. F. Ham, vice president of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, and Attorney Russell Bowen, counsel for the company, who appeared before the committee in advocacy of the measure, were pelted with questions by those four Congressmen and many intricate legal phases of the proposed consolidation were threshed out.

The hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning because of the early call of the House to attend the joint session of Congress.

Engineer Commissioner Kutz was just about to begin his statement in opposition to the bill when adjournment was taken. He will begin his statement when the hearing is resumed tomorrow.

Commissioners Newman and Brownlow and Corporation Counsel Syme also were present, and it is understood they will be heard before the hearing adjourns.

Vice President Ham said the committee (Continued on Eighth Page.)

Begins Probe of Poison Pen Letters

Inspector Cortelyou Details Assistants to Philadelphia Attacks.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—Chief Postoffice Inspector Cortelyou today detailed several of his best assistants to probe "poison-pen" attacks on a number of prominent society women. Scurrilous missives, all written in the same handwriting, have been received lately by fashionable Philadelphia and Main line residents. The sender is believed to be a woman.

The only clue the authorities have is the knowledge the letters were mailed here. All were mailed in various parts of the city and invariably in street boxes.

The names of the victims are being withheld.

NEW U-BOAT CRISIS SENT MARKET DOWN

Reports of Imminent Trouble With Germany Causes Sharp Break—War Stocks Fall.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The stock market broke badly today on reports from Washington that a break between the United States and Germany is imminent. The war stocks recorded the biggest losses.

Crucible Steel opened at 82, off 3%, and immediately dropped half a point lower. Baldwin Locomotive declined two points on the first trades, and other munition shares suffered similar losses.

The downward movement was checked to an extent in the middle of the first half hour, Crucible Steel rebounding two points and standing at the advance.

Baldwin and American Locomotive were still under pressure, but showed no further sharp losses. After opening down one point United States Steel showed symptoms of recovery.

Practically the whole list fell under the influence of the war scare, though railroad stocks were affected only to a slight degree.

Hypocritical, Says Mann of Message

Bitter comment on the President's message fell from the lips of Republican Leader Mann, following the President's submarine message to Congress this afternoon.

"It is a hypocritical speech probably for campaign purposes," he said. "The President has been pro-English all during this controversy."

"I said at the time of the McLeure resolution that the President wanted to get us into war with Germany, and I say the same thing now."

Two Americans Swear Sussex Was Torpedoed

PARIS, April 19.—President Wilson bases his convictions that the Sussex was torpedoed partly on the affidavits of two Americans, which were forwarded to Washington by Ambassador Sharp. It was learned on good authority today.

Both Samuel Bemis, of Medford, Mass., and Miss Gertrude Warren, of St. Louis, Mo., swore that they saw the wake of a torpedo.

ONLY ONE HOPE TO AVOID BREAK

Galleries and Floor of House Packed as Chief Executive Speaks on This Country's Relations With Germany

The United States Government has served a practical ultimatum on Germany, demanding an immediate abandonment of the submarine warfare.

Failure on Germany's part to comply will mean a severance of diplomatic relations.

This was the message which President Wilson read today to the Congress of the United States, in tones of solemn emphasis which electrified his hearers. He said:

"Unless the imperial German government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, this Government can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the government of the German empire altogether."

"This decision I have arrived at, with the keenest regret; the possibility of the action contemplated I am sure all thoughtful Americans look forward to with unaffected reluctance."

The message was delivered before both branches of Congress assembled in the chamber of the House of Representatives.

The galleries were packed to their utmost capacity with a crowd of men and women who sat in tense stillness.

Foreign diplomats were present in large numbers. They had come to hear America's last word to Germany.

A note to Berlin, embodying the demand of the United States, the President told Congress, has been cabled to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin with instructions to present it at once to the German foreign office.

EMBASSY PAPERS ORDERED RETURNED

President's Message As Read to Congress

NEW YORK, April 19.—District Attorney Marshall announced this afternoon that he will proceed with the conspiracy prosecution against Wolf von Igel, secretary to Captain von Papen, recalled attache, unless specifically directed otherwise by Attorney General Gregory.

Secretary of State Lansing today ordered the return to the German Embassy of papers taken from Wolf von Igel, under arrest in New York, in connection with the Volland canal plot. This action was taken after Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, had filed with the State Department a protest against seizure of the papers.

Secretary Lansing previously had ordered the conditional release of von Igel, upon protests filed by the German ambassador against the arrest of an embassy agent in violation of diplomatic immunity.

Bernstorff Pale. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, was very pale as he left the State Department after a twenty-minute conference with Secretary Lansing. He said that he knew absolutely nothing of this Government's intentions.

Ambassador von Bernstorff said he was not given a note for transmission to his government or a copy of any note that might have been sent to Ambassador Gerard for delivery at Berlin. He let it be understood that he did not discuss the note with Secretary Lansing.

It was apparent from his demeanor, however, that he had had a most serious discussion with Secretary Lansing. (Continued on Fourth Page.)

The President's message, which he read to Congress today, follows:

A situation has arisen in the foreign relations of the country of which it is my plain duty to inform you very frankly.

It will be recalled that in February, 1915, the imperial German government announced its intention to treat the waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland as embraced within the seat of war and to destroy all merchant ships owned by its enemies that might be found within any part of that portion of the high seas, and that it warned all vessels, of neutral as well as of belligerent ownership, to keep out of the waters it had thus proscribed or else enter them at their peril.

"The Government of the United States earnestly protested. It took the position that such a policy could not be pursued without the practical certainty of gross and palpable violations of the law of nations, particularly if submarine craft were to be employed as its instruments, inasmuch as the rules prescribed by that law, rules founded upon principles of humanity and established for the protection of the lives of non-combatants at sea, could not in the nature of the case be observed by such vessels.

It based its protest on the ground that persons of neutral nationality and vessels of neutral ownership would be exposed to extreme and intolerable risks, and that no right to close any part of